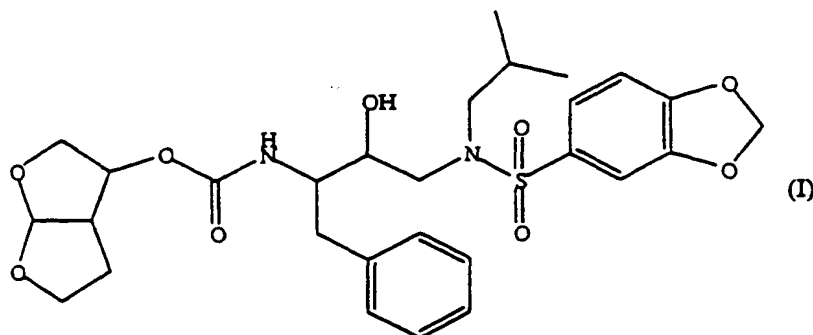


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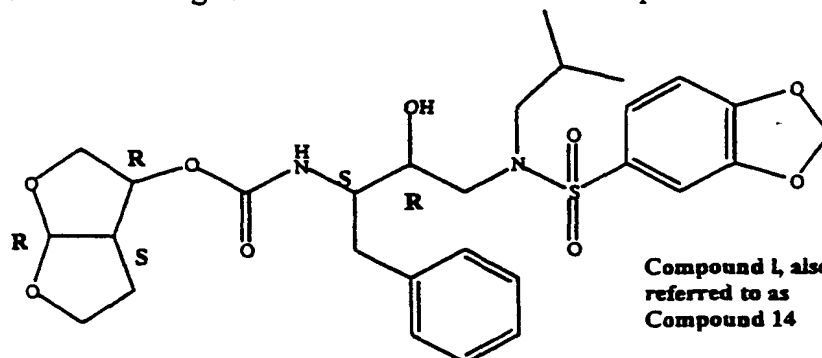
We claim:

1. A compound having the formula



a *N*-oxide, salt, ester, stereoisomeric form, racemic mixture, prodrug or metabolite thereof.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 in an enantiomerically pure form.
3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the compound is



a *N*-oxide, salt, ester, prodrug or metabolite thereof.

4. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 in a pharmaceutically tolerable salt form.
5. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 in a prodrug form.
6. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising an effective amount of at least one compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, and a pharmaceutically tolerable excipient.
7. A method of inhibiting a protease of a retrovirus in a mammal infected with said retrovirus, comprising administering a protease inhibiting amount of a compound

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according to any one of claims 1 to 5 to said mammal in need thereof.

- 5 8. A method of treating or combating infection or disease associated with retrovirus infection in a mammal, comprising administering an effective amount of at least one compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 to said mammal.
9. The method as claimed in claim 7 or 8, wherein said mammal is a human.
- 10 10. A method of inhibiting retroviral replication, comprising contacting a retrovirus with an effective amount of at least one compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5.
- 15 11. The method as claimed in claim 7 or 8 or 10 wherein the retrovirus is a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
12. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the HIV virus is a multi-drug resistant strain.
- 20 13. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 for use as a medicine.
14. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or combating infection or disease associated with retrovirus infection in a mammal.
- 25 15. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 in the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting a protease of a retrovirus in a mammal infected with said retrovirus.
- 30 16. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 in the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting retroviral replication.
17. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 16 10 wherein the retrovirus is a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- 35 18. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 16 10 wherein the HIV virus is a multi-drug resistant strain.